

Message Text

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INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 310578

CINCPAC FOR POLAD - FOR HOLBROOKE ONLY

FOL MANILA 20435 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DEC 30, 1977 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 20435

FOR EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN

REF: STATE 309595

1. I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW PART A OF THE
PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN AND THE
SERIOUS TIME AND BUREAUCRATIC RESTRAINTS UNDER WHICH EA IS
WORKING. I MUST REGISTER MY SERIOUS CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT
REPORT AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN COULD WELL SET BACK OUR CURRENT
DIALOGUE WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE SCEPTICISM WHICH EXISTS IN
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WASHINGTON CONCERNING MARCOS' INTENTIONS, I BELIEVE,
NEVERTHELESS, THAT WE ARE MAKING HIM UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUS-
NESS OF THIS ISSUE AND THAT INDEPENDENT INTELLIGENCE CONFIRMS
THAT HE IS TAKING SOME STEPS TOWARD ELIMINATING THE WORST
ASPECTS OF HIS RULE. IF, IN THE MIDST OF OUR CURRENT EFFORTS,
A REPORT APPEARS FROM THE U.S. EXECUTIVE WHICH SEEMS
TOTALLY TO IGNORE MORE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, BOTH THE

PUBLIC AND THE OFFICIAL REACTIONS HERE COULD BE ADVERSE TO OUR INTERESTS.

3. RECOGNIZING THAT A MAJOR REVISION OF THE REPORT IS NOT POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE TWO SUGGESTIONS:

A. THAT A STATEMENT BE INCLUDED IN THE INTRODUCTION THAT QUOTE CONFIRMED INFORMATION FROM OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES IN THIS REPORT DEALS WITH THE SITUATION PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1, 1977, AND MAY, THEREFORE, NOT REFLECT REPORTS OF RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN SOME ASPECTS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, UNQUOTE (THE IMPRESSION IS CONVEYED THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, IN SECOND PARAGRAPH OF 1A THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS CONFIRMED INFORMATION AS RECENT AS DECEMBER 1977, ALTHOUGH THEIR REPORT OF THAT DATE IS UNDOUBTEDLY LARGELY BASED ON OLDER INFORMATION.)

B. THAT THE THIRD PARAGRAPH OF THE INTRODUCTION BE REVISED TO REFLECT A SLIGHTLY MORE POSITIVE TONE: QUOTE WHILE MARTIAL LAW CONTRIBUTED INITIALLY TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE PEACE AND ORDER OF THE SOCIETY, IT WAS ANNOUNCED AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE. INSTEAD, IT HAS RESULTED IN THE SUSPENSION OF DEMOCRATIC FORMS OF GOVERNMENT AND IN THE SEVERE CURTAILMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS. WITHIN RECENT MONTHS THE GOVERNMENT HAS RELAXED SOME ASPECTS OF MARTIAL LAW, RELEASED SOME POLITICAL DETAINEES, AND HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO HOLD A FORM OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IN 1978. THERE IS, AS YET, HOWEVER, NO CLEAR INDICATION OF WHEN MARTIAL LAW MAY BE LIFTED OR FULL CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS RESTORED. UNQUOTE.

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4. WHATEVER THE FINAL FORM OF THE REPORT, I REQUEST AUTHORITY TO GIVE COPY TO PRESIDENT MARCOS BEFORE ITS RELEASE TO CONGRESS. NEWSOM UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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